

ATTACHMENT B
Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 1-2 with the following amended paragraph.

The present invention relates to an apparatus according to the preamble of ~~claim 1 for conveying objects and, in particular, an apparatus comprising conveying elements and gripper hands for transferring objects from between conveying elements.~~

Please insert the following heading on page 1 between lines 2 and 3.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 3-14 with the following amended paragraph.

Such Prior conveyor systems include an apparatus ~~is~~ known from EP 687508 of the present applicant. The sorting machine described therein comprises, substantially, two endless conveyors, i.e. a first roller conveyor and a second roller conveyor starting above an end part of the roller conveyor, having grippers as carrier elements which grippers each consist of a combination of two gripper halves for carefully transferring articles, objects or products such as fruit, more in particular apples, pears, paprika's, kiwis, peaches etcetera, from the roller conveyor and conveying these further to the proper unloading station for further discharge and packaging. Especially in the market of sorting delicate products such as fruits, this machine has yielded good results because with these grippers, damaging the products to be transferred is prevented and avoided to a large extent.

Please insert the following heading on page 1 between lines 20 and 21.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading on page 3 between lines 2 and 3.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading on page 3 between lines 11 and 12.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 12-26 with the following amended paragraph.

In Fig. 3, again, the combination is shown in a side view. What is shown is the situation just prior to, during, and just after transfer of the objects 1 by the gripper hands 7. Objects 1 are partly on diabolos carried along by the first endless conveyor, and are partly transferred by the gripper hands 7 of the second endless conveyor. Further, a transfer guide 10 is represented, more in particular a gradient against which guides 9 on the sides of the diabolos rotate so that the diabolos are directed such that the halves 5 are positioned having the grooves at the upper side. As the gripper hands 7 and the grooves are exactly in line, when the two gripper hands move towards each other, the fingers will be slid exactly into the grooves and hence be able to support and transfer the objects 1. Immediately afterwards, the gripper hands will be guided upwards by an upwards guide (not represented) in the direction indicated by the arrow in this Figure, so that the objects transferred by the gripper hands are positioned at at least a limited distance above the first conveyor. Any damage that may occur is thus

prevented. Optionally, the gripper hands 7, 8 are connected to a weighing unit 11
(shown schematically in Figs. 2 and 3).

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 8-10 with the following amended paragraph.

It will be clear to any skilled person that minor modifications in the elaborations represented are possible without falling outside the range of the annexed claims departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

Please replace the original Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

ABSTRACT

~~Apparatus~~An apparatus for conveying objects (1), ~~for instance such as~~ fruits, ~~comprising-- comprises~~ a first endless conveyor, with conveying elements (2) such as diabolos connected thereto, ~~while a~~ A conveying position is defined between at least two conveying elements, ~~one of which downstream and the other upstream, viewed in the direction of travel of the conveyor, and~~ a A second endless conveyor, with product carriers connected thereto, ~~comprising comprises~~ gripper hands (7), for transferring objects from between the conveying elements, ~~the~~ The second conveyor ~~being provided is~~ is in the direct proximity of the first conveyor, ~~wherein at least in the surfaces supporting the objects at the moment of transfer, the~~ The conveying elements comprise grooves (4) in a direction perpendicular to the conveyor, and ~~said the~~ the gripper hand has fingers (8), ~~while the~~ A distance between the fingers corresponds to ~~the a~~ distance between the grooves of the conveying elements such that upon transfer of the objects by ~~said the~~ the gripper hand, the fingers are positioned at least partly under the objects in ~~the~~ groove ends (6) of the grooves.